



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION
SOUTHERN DIVISION

1938 A. A. A. Farm Program

Issued July 1938

1.42
508 L
2-112005
SEP 1 1938

**BETTER FARMING IN THE SOUTHEASTERN STATES
THROUGH THE 1938 A. A. A. PROGRAM**

(Class B Farms)

How the Program May Be Used to Improve Farm Income and Living Standards by Applying Its Provisions to Dairy, Livestock, and Poultry Production; to Improve Orchard and Vegetable Production; to the Development of Woodlands; and to the Control of Erosion

The provisions of the A. A. A. farm program help farmers to improve their income and conserve their soil. While the program is generally referred to as the "Triple-A Program" it would be more appropriate to call it the "Farmers" program. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration is the agency set up by law to carry out the administrative details; the program itself makes it possible for a great many farmers to work together toward some common goals.

The provisions of the program apply directly or indirectly to almost all enterprises on the farm, including the home-making activities of the farm family, and are adapted to a number of the outstanding needs of farms and farm families of the Southern Region generally. They offer Southern farmers an opportunity to adopt practices long recommended by agricultural societies, experiment stations, the agricultural extension service, and vocational teachers. In fact, the principles of soil conservation on which the A. A. A. program is based may be traced back to the earliest history of the Nation. George Washington was especially interested in soil improvement and made many experiments with manures, marl, gypsum, and a variety of green manures. He planted alfalfa in 1760 and later grew clover and various grasses as soil-building measures. John A. Binns, of Loudon County, Va., a pioneer of progressive farming, began applying a mineral plant food to his forage crops in 1784. Agricultural societies to encourage experimentation and soil conservation were organized in South Carolina, Georgia, and other States soon after the Nation was established. These activities, followed by the development of the United States Department of Agriculture and a Nation-wide system of agricultural colleges and experiment stations, with various cooperating agencies, laid the groundwork for the program and practices which the A. A. A. is now encouraging.

This leaflet offers, first, a short statement of how payments for soil-building practices are computed; and, second, as its main object, it shows how the soil-building practices may be used by the farmers

of South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and certain counties of Arkansas:

- (1) To increase dairy, other livestock, and poultry production for home use;
- (2) To increase the production of orchards and vegetables;
- (3) To increase and improve farm woodlands;
- (4) To conserve the soil;
- (5) To increase farm income; and
- (6) To promote better standards of living.

THE SOIL-BUILDING PRACTICES

Of outstanding importance to Southern farmers are the soil-building practices provided in the program. In order to earn the full payment to which his farm is entitled, it is necessary for a farmer to carry out a certain number of "units" of these practices. A "unit" is a yardstick for measuring a uniform amount of performance in connection with each practice, and the payment rate per unit is \$1.50, up to the full amount of the soil-building allowance. In all, the farmers of the Southern Region have 17 practices to choose from, as follows:

- Establishment of permanent pasture—1 acre equals 2 units.
- Seeding biennial, perennial, or winter legumes—1 acre equals 1 unit.
- Seeding lespedeza, crotalaria, ryegrass, sesbania, or annual sweet-clover—1 acre equals 1 unit.
- Manure crops or cover crops—1 acre equals 1 unit. (When such crops are turned under on commercial vegetable farms, each acre counts as 2 units.)
- Interplanted summer legumes (not harvested)—2 acres equal 1 unit.
- Application of at least 2 tons per acre of straw, or equivalent, to commercial vegetables and commercial orchards—1 acre equals 1 unit.
- Planting forest trees—1 acre equals 5 units.
- Cultivating, protecting, and maintaining forest trees planted between January 1, 1934, and January 1, 1938—1 acre equals 2 units.
- Contour listing or furrowing noncrop land—4 acres equal 1 unit.
- Contour stripcropping—4 acres equal 1 unit.
- Seeding timothy or redbud or mixture—2 acres equal 1 unit.
- Reseeding pasture—use of each 10 pounds of seed equals 1 unit.
- Application of 16 percent superphosphate (or equivalent) to permanent pastures and specified legumes and grasses—300 pounds equal 1 unit.
- Application of ground limestone—1,500 pounds equal 1 unit.
- Application of basic slag or rock phosphate to permanent pastures and specified legumes and grasses—500 pounds equal 1 unit.
- Contour ridging pasture—750 linear feet equal 1 unit.
- Terracing—200 linear feet equal 1 unit.

A farmer may carry out as many units of these 17 practices as he likes, and he will receive \$1.50 per unit **up to the full amount of the soil-building allowance for his farm.**

The amount of the soil-building allowance is calculated from four items, as follows: (1) 70 cents per acre for all cropland in excess of $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the cotton, flue-cured tobacco, and Burley tobacco acreage allotments, plus other individual crop acreage allotments and the acreage of sugarcane for sugar on the farm; (2) \$1.50 per acre for the average acreage of commercial vegetables on the farm in 1936 and 1937; (3) \$2 per acre for the commercial orchards on the farm January 1, 1938; and (4) 25 cents per acre for fenced, noncrop, open pasture land in excess of one-half of the cropland, provided the pasture has a carrying capacity of at least one animal unit to each 5 acres.

The sum of the amounts calculated for the four items above is the total amount that will be paid for approved soil-building practices on a farm.

EXAMPLE

Take, for example, a farm with 80 acres of cropland and 64 acres of noncrop pasture, with a cotton allotment of 18 acres, a flue-cured tobacco allotment of 2 acres, 2 acres of commercial vegetables, and 2 acres of commercial orchards. The cropland qualifying for payment of 70 cents per acre would be that in excess of $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the cotton and flue-cured tobacco allotments, or 50 acres; and the pasture land qualifying for payment of 25 cents per acre would be that in excess of half the cropland, or 24 acres. The payment for soil-building practices on this farm would be calculated as follows:

Cropland.....	50 × \$0.70 =	\$35.00
Commercial vegetables.....	2 × 1.50 =	3.00
Commercial orchards.....	2 × 2.00 =	4.00
Noncrop pasture.....	24 × .25 =	6.00
Total.....		48.00

At the rate of \$1.50 per practice unit, the farmer in the example above would have to carry out 32 units of the approved practices listed on page 2 to earn the full soil-building allowance of \$48.00.

HOW FARMERS CAN USE THE PROGRAM TO INCREASE DAIRY, LIVESTOCK, AND POULTRY PRODUCTION FOR HOME CONSUMPTION

Adjustments of the acreages of cotton and other soil-depleting crops have left additional acres available on most farms for the growing of food and feed crops for home use and for soil-building crops. In most parts of the South there is a deficiency of food and feed for home use. By providing payments for soil-building practices which are adapted to the production of food and feed, the program offers the farmer practical assistance in increasing his food and feed production for home consumption.

Specifically, the program provides payments for a number of the 17 practices applicable to the Southern Region that will help farmers increase their dairy, livestock, and poultry production to meet home requirements.

1. The need for more dairy cows and the applicable practices.—

When it is realized that hundreds of thousands of farms in the South do not have a dairy cow and hundreds of thousands of farm families do not have milk and butter on their tables, there can be no doubt that more dairy cows are needed in the Southern States. In 9 States of the Southern Region there are 2,211,000 farms, according to the 1935 Census of Agriculture. Of this number 638,000, or about 29 percent, do not have cows. For example, 66,000 farms in South Carolina, 71,000 in Georgia, and 106,000 in Mississippi are without cows, and therefore the families on those farms do not have the milk, butter, and other dairy products needed for balanced, healthful diets. Furthermore, the Census figures show that 74 percent of all farms in the Southern Region do not have plowable pastures, 67 percent do not have woodland pastures, and 80 percent do not have "other kind" of pasture. In other words, a large percentage of the farms do not have any grazing facilities whatever for dairy cows, or at best very meager grazing facilities.

What do these things mean? Simply that there is a great deficiency of dairy production in the region and that the pasture situation urgently needs improvement. Establishment and improvement of pastures are necessary, of course, to help the deficient areas bring dairy production up to a level in line with home needs. At least 10 of the 17 soil-building practices applicable to the Southern Region have to do with improvement of pastures and production of feed crops and are of great value on any farm in helping that farm produce more dairy products for home consumption. The A. A. A. program offers, within the soil-building allowance, a payment of \$1.50 for each unit of these practices carried out. The 10 practices are: (1) Establishment of permanent pasture by seeding or sodding; (2) reseeding depleted pasture with adapted grasses and legumes; (3) seeding biennial, perennial, or winter legumes such as alfalfa, sweetclover, hairy vetch, and Austrian winter peas; (4) seeding such crops as lespedeza, ryegrass, or annual sweetclover; (5) contour listing or furrowing of noncrop land; (6) seeding timothy or redtop or mixture; (7) application of 16 percent superphosphate or its equivalent to, or in connection with the seeding of, such crops as alfalfa, sweetclover, perennial grasses, vetch, Austrian winter peas, lespedeza, crotalaria, natal grass, or permanent pasture; (8) application of ground limestone; (9) application of basic slag or rock phosphate to the same crops as those mentioned above for superphosphate; and (10) contour ridging pasture.

2. The need for more hogs and the applicable practices.—

In some States in the Southern Region there are more farms without hogs than without cows. In fact, the Census report shows that for the region as a whole 800,000 farms, or about 36 percent of all farms in the 9 States, had no hogs at all on January 1, 1935. Louisiana had 52,000 farms, Georgia 73,000 farms, and Mississippi 71,000 farms on which there were no hogs.

The acres formerly used for cotton and other soil-depleting crops may be used for growing larger amounts of corn and other feed crops which may be fed to hogs for consumption on the farm. A number of the soil-building crops such as alfalfa, clovers, and winter legumes may be grazed by hogs and yet the seeding of these crops will count toward the soil-building goal; other soil-building crops

such as peanuts, soybeans, and cowpeas, may be grazed by hogs and yet not be classified as soil-depleting.

3. The need for more poultry products and the applicable practices.—Thirteen percent of all the farms in the Southern Region did not have chickens in 1935. Among the 9 States this deficiency ranged from 11 percent in Alabama to 30.7 percent in Florida. In all, approximately 300,000 farms in 9 States did not have chickens, and that many farm families were depending on buying or were doing without poultry and eggs. The practices and features of the program that encourage the growing of more feed crops for consumption on the farm are applicable to poultry production and to that extent are designed to help farm families come nearer to the goal of producing most of their living at home.

HOW THE PROGRAM CAN BE USED TO IMPROVE ORCHARD AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

Among the soil-building practices for which payments are made under the program are at least eight practices which are useful for increasing the production of fruits and vegetables. These are: (1) Seeding lespedeza, crotalaria, ryegrass, sesbania, or annual sweet-clover; (2) seeding biennial, perennial, or winter legumes such as alfalfa, sweetclover, hairy vetch, and Austrian winter peas; (3) manure or cover crops; (4) application of straw or equivalent material as a mulch to commercial orchards or commercial vegetable land; (5) application of 16 percent superphosphate, or equivalent, to certain crops, grasses, or to permanent pasture; (6) application of ground limestone; (7) application of basic slag or rock phosphate to certain crops, grasses, or to permanent pasture; and (8) interplanted summer legumes, not harvested.

HOW THE PROGRAM OFFERS AID IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF FARM WOODLANDS

Need for conservation of the Nation's forests and for the retirement of land, too poor or too steep for other crops, to trees is widely recognized. In this connection, Harry L. Brown, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, made the following statement: "A full third of all our land is more valuable as forest than as plow or pasture land. Properly managed this forest land retards too rapid run-off of water, helps prevent floods and silting of reservoirs and ditches, and conserves soil and moisture."

The Southern Region, where a large part of the land is rolling and subject to erosion, is particularly in need of careful attention to the development and maintenance of the proper proportion of woodland on each farm. The farmers of the region who wish to increase their forest plantings, or to enhance the value of their trees, will be interested in the 2 soil-building practices having to do with woodlands: (1) Planting forest trees; (2) cultivation, protection, and maintenance of a good stand of forest trees planted between January 1, 1934, and January 1, 1938. Besides these positive soil-building practices, the program negatively provides that any farmer who adopts any practice with respect to his forest land or woodland which is contrary to sound forestry practice, may lose all or any part of his farm payment.

Each acre of forest trees planted is equivalent to 5 soil-building practice units and, at the rate of \$1.50 per unit, earns the farmer, within his soil-building allowance, \$7.50. Each acre of trees planted since January 1, 1934, that he cultivates, protects, and maintains is equivalent to 2 units and earns for him \$3.

HOW THE PROGRAM ASSISTS FARMERS IN CARRYING OUT EROSION CONTROL AND SOIL IMPROVEMENT MEASURES

All the practices applicable to the Southern Region contribute to soil improvement on the farm, either by restoring and adding to the soil fertility or by conserving moisture and preventing topsoil from being removed by erosion. By using these practices, a farmer not only earns \$1.50 for each unit in his soil-building goal, but also conserves and improves his land for better crops in the future.

THE RELATION OF THE PROGRAM TO FARM INCOME

The use of soil-building practices provides payments to farmers, as previously explained, up to the soil-building allowance for their farms. These payments help them to finance the practices that are most urgently needed on a majority of Southern farms. In carrying out the practices, however, farmers receive far greater benefits than these in the form of better crop yields and particularly in the form of an increased supply of food for home use and of feed for dairy cows and other livestock used in the production of food for home consumption.

Acreage adjustments under the program mean that in most cases farmers will have fewer acres of their cash crops. But because the total acreage in such crops in the United States will be more nearly in line with the demand for such crops, and because payments will be made on the basis of the crops planted, the gross income of farmers will probably be increased. In this way, they will have the double benefit of the larger gross income and the use of the additional land for growing those crops needed for food and feed on the farm.

IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING STANDARDS

The acreage of cropland available per farm person is lower in the States of the Southern Region, especially in the Southeastern States, than in any other part of the United States. In view of this fact, it is necessary for the farmers in the region to make the best possible use of all their cropland. The farm program is planned to meet the needs of the situation by encouraging and promoting a "conservation" system of farming. With emphasis on the growing of more food and feed for home use, a smaller part of the cash income from cotton will need to be spent for the family living.

More food and feed raised on the farm means not only less money going out for food, but also more and better food and more healthful diets for growing families; and with less money being spent for food, it means more money available to buy the things which will increase the pleasures and comforts of living. In other words, by making possible a more balanced system of farming and a more stable income, the program offers participating families the opportunity to provide themselves with things that will make their homes more attractive and con-

venient; the opportunity to secure more adequate clothing; the opportunity for more recreational activities and for more wholesome surroundings; and the opportunity for a better education for the children, and for many other satisfactions that are important to family life.

CHECK LIST

In order that one may have a list of the possible applications of each of the approved practices to the various farm enterprises, as indicated in this leaflet, the following check list is suggested: Following each practice is the amount of the practice required for 1 soil-building practice unit. Then, a check is made against any farm enterprise that may be helpfully affected. For instance, establishing a permanent pasture on $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land meets the requirements of 1 soil-building practice unit and beneficially affects the production of dairy and beef products, helps to feed workstock, and to maintain soil fertility. To take another instance, manure crops count as soil-building units acre for acre and provide food for the family, increase the production of vegetables and orchards, and maintain soil fertility.

Provisions of the 1938 Agricultural Conservation Program that apply to various enterprises of the farm (Class B Farms)

[X indicates the enterprises that each of the approved practices may affect]

Provisions	Practice unit ¹	Enterprises that may be benefited								
		Dairy products	Beef products	Hog products	Poultry products	Food crops	Work stock	Vegetables	Orchards	Soil fertility
I. PRACTICES										
	<i>Acres</i>									
(1) Establishing permanent pasture ²	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	X							X
(2) Seeding certain legumes ³	1	X	X				X			X
(3) Seeding lespedeza, crotalaria, etc.....	1	X	X				X			X
(4) Manure crops.....	1					X		X	X	X
(5) Interplanted summer legumes (not harvested).....	2					X				X
(6) 2 tons per acre of straw ⁴	1							X	X	X
(7) Planting trees.....	$\frac{1}{2}$									X
(8) Cultivating, protecting, and maintaining trees.....	$\frac{1}{2}$									X
(9) Contour listing or furrowing noncrop land.....	4	X	X				X			X
(10) Contour strip cropping.....	4									X
(11) Seeding timothy or redbud or mixture.....	2	X	X				X			X
	<i>Pounds</i>									
(12) Reseeding pasture (seed).....	10	X	X				X			X
(13) 16 percent superphosphate ⁵	300	X	X			X		X	X	X
(14) Ground limestone ⁵	1,500	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
(15) Basic slag or rock phosphate ⁵	500	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
	<i>Linear feet</i>									
(16) Contour ridging pasture.....	750	X	X				X			X
(17) Terracing.....	200									X
II. USE OF FORMER DEPLETING CROP ACREAGE (COTTON, ETC.)										
		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

¹ Amount required for one soil-building practice unit.

² By seeding or sodding.

³ Biennial, perennial, or winter.

⁴ To commercial vegetable land or commercial orchards.

⁵ Applied to certain crops, grasses, or to permanent pasture.

